

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W

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R 262226Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2246

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL QUEBEC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0302

POUCHED TO ALL OTHER CANADIAN CONSULATES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: GALLUP POLL SHOWS MARKED INCREASE IN NUMBER OF
CANADIANS WHO DO NOT APPROVE OF TRUDEAU'S HANDLING
OF JOB

REF: A. TORONTO 0201; B. OTTAWA 0030

1. SUMMARY: MOST RECENT GALLUP POLL (LAST POLL ON THIS QUESTION WAS IN MAY 1976) SHOWS THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF CANADIAN VOTERS DO NOT APPROVE OF PM TRUDEAU'S HANDLING OF HIS JOB. MOST DRAMATIC CHANGE WAS IN QUEBEC, WHERE THERE WAS AN ELEVEN POINT DROP IN APPROVAL AND FIFTEEN-POINT INCREASE IN DISAPPROVAL. QUEBEC RESULTS PARTLY REFLECT LINGERING VOTER AVERSION TO FORMER LIBERAL REGIME. POLL SHEDS NO DIRECT LIGHT ON CURRENT STANDING OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE (PC) OPPOSITION LEADER JOE CLARK COMPARED TO TRUDEAU. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED IN REF A, MOST RECENT GALLUP POLL, CONDUCTED IN DECEMBER, SHOWED A DECIDED INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE OF CANADIANS WHO DO NOT APPROVE OF WAY PM TRUDEAU IS DOING HIS JOB. FIGURES ARE GIVEN BELOW WITH COMPARABLE DATA FOR
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MAY 1976, WHEN LAST SUCH POLL TAKEN, GIVEN IN BRACKETS.

A. NATIONAL	APPROVE 32 (33)
	DISAPPROVE 57 (49)
	DO NOT KNOW 11 (18)
B. QUEBEC:	APPROVE 35 (46)
	DISAPPROVE 49 (34)
	DO NOT KNOW 16 (20)

C. REST OF CANADA: APPROVE 31 (28)
DISAPPROVE 60 (55)
DO NOT KNOW 9 (17)

3. COMMENT: THE MAJOR CHANGE BETWEEN MAY AND DECEMBER OCCURED IN QUEBEC WHERE TRUDEAU'S APPROVAL RATING DROPPED 11 POINTS AND HIS DISAPPROVAL RATING ROSE BY 15 POINTS. THIS GROWTH IN ANTI-TRUDEAU SENTIMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH RESULTS OF LIBERAL/PC COMPARATIVE POLL ALSO CONDUCTED IN DECEMBER (REF B) WHICH SHOWED PC'S TRAILING LIBERALS BY ONLY THREE PERCENT IN QUEBEC. FEDERAL LIBERAL FORTUNES HAVE CLEARLY BEEN HURT BY FAILINGS OF FORMER BOURASSA LIBERAL GOVERNMENT, BUT AS MEMORIES OF HIS GOVERNMENT WANE, WE BELIEVE STANDING OF BOTH TRUDEAU AND FEDERAL LIBERAL PARTY WILL IMPROVE NOTICEABLY IN QUEBEC.

4. POLL RESULTS DO NOT SHED ANY NEW DIRECT LIGHT ON PC LEADER JOE CLARK'S STANDING WITH THE CANADIAN VOTER SINCE SURVEY DID NOT COVER THE IMPORTANT "COMPARED TO WHAT" ELEMENT OF THE POLITICAL EQUATION. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT DECLINE IN FORTUNES OF TRUDEAU AND LIBERALS IN QUEBEC CAN BE INTERPRETED AS ANY EQUIVALENT RISE IN ENTHUSIASM FOR CLARK AND HIS PARTY IN THE PROVINCE.
ENDERS

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